Connally, John - 4

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Arlen Specter

SUBJECT: Outline Of Suggested Questions For Governor John B. Connally

In formulating the questions, I have included all topics which I think may be of interest to the Commission since, in my opinion, the Commission should have all my ideas and then questions can be deleted which are deemed irrelevant or too specific.

I. Events Preceding The Assassination

1. When, to the best of your recollection, did you first invite or discuss with President Kennedy a possible trip to Texas in November, 1963?

2. When, to the best of your recollection, did President Kennedy first state that he would definitely come to Texas in November, 1963?

3. When, to the best of your recollection, were the people told that President Kennedy would visit Dallas on November 22, 1963?

4. When and where did you meet President Kennedy on his arrival?

5. Describe, in a general way, your activities with the Presidential party prior to Friday, November 22, 1963.

6. What were your activities, in a general way, on Friday, November 22nd, prior to the time you left the plane at Love Field in Dallas, Texas?

7. Describe, in a general way, your activities in greeting the crowd at Love Field after disembarking from the plane.

8. Identify the people who rode in the President's automobile and specify their positions in that automobile.

9. Was the automobile open or was there any covering on it, such as the bubble top?

10. Describe, in a general way, the size and reaction of the crowd on the motorcade route prior to the intersection of Houston and Elm Streets.

11. Are there any special events which stand out on the motorcade trip prior to the intersection of Houston and Elm Streets?

The Assassination

12. Had Mrs. Connally and you been talking immediately before the shooting?

13. Had you or Mrs. Connally joined in any conversation with President Kennedy or Mrs. Kennedy immediately before the shooting?

14. Was there an appreciable amount of noise coming from the crowd immediately before the shooting?

15. Did you have any difficulty in hearing Mrs. Connally, or did she have to raise her voice to talk to you immediately before the shooting?

16. Did you have any difficulty in hearing the President or Mrs. Kennedy, or did they have to raise their voices in order to be heard immediately before the shooting?

17. At any time shortly before the shooting, did you or anyone else in the automobile have any occasion to have any conversation with Special Agent Greer, the driver, or with Special Agent Kellerman who was seated on the right-hand side of the front seat?

18. If so, did any parties to such conversations have any difficulty hearing each other, or was it necessary for anyone to raise his voice?

19. As precisely as you are able to state, what time did the first shot take place?

20. As precisely as you are able to state, where was the President's automobile at the time of the first shot?

21. Please mark a photograph (to be provided) indicating, as precisely as possible, the location of the President's car at the time of the first shot.

22. To the best of your recollection, in what direction were you looking at the time of the first shot?

23. What did you think the first shot was?

24. Did you alter your glance, or what was your reaction to the first shot?

26. What movement, if any, did you make after the third shot?

27. To the best of your ability to recollect and estimate, how many seconds after the first shot did you look toward President Kennedy?

28. Did you observe any reaction by President Kennedy to the first shot?

29. What, if anything, did President Kennedy say after the first shot? (According to Special Agent Kellerman, President Kennedy said "My God, I'm hit.")

30. What, if anything, was said immediately after the first shot by

a. you?
b. Mrs. Kennedy?
c. Gov. Connally?
d. Special Agent Greer?
e. Special Agent Kellerman?

31. Immediately after the first shot, did you observe any reaction by

a. Mrs. Kennedy?
b. Mrs. Connally?
c. Special Agent Greer?
d. Special Agent Kellerman?

32. What, if anything, did you observe or hear outside your car automobile at the time of the first shot?

33. Did you hear a second shot? If so, then please answer Questions 33 through 37.

34. What is your best estimate as to the time which elapsed between the first and second shots?

35. What was the reaction, if any, to the second shot by

a. you?
b. The President?
c. Mrs. Kennedy?
d. Mrs. Connally?
e. Special Agent Greer?
f. Special Agent Kellerman?

36.

33. What, if anything, was said after the second shot by

a. you?
b. the President?
c. Mrs. Kennedy?
d. Mrs. Connally?
e. Special Agent Greer?
f. Special Agent Kellerman?

34. To the best of your recollection, what was your exact position at the time you heard the second shot?

35. What movement, if any, did you make after the second shot? (From the movies, you appear to have fallen into your wife's lap.)

36. What, if anything, did you observe or hear outside of your own automobile at the time of the second shot?

37. Did you hear a third shot?

38. Were you conscious after the third shot? (If so, then the general content of Questions 33 through 35 will be repeated.)

39. Did you hear anything which you consider to be additional shots? (If answered affirmatively, then the general content of Questions 33 through 38 will be repeated.)

40. What would you estimate was the speed of the President's car at the time of each shot?

41. What is your estimate as the distance traveled by the President's car from the first until the last shot you heard?

42. What was your impression, if any, as to the source of the shots?

43. Did you observe any bullet or fragment strike the windshield?

44. Did you observe any other bullet or fragment in the air or the car?

45. Do you believe you were hit by the first shot or second shot, or both?

46. What are your reasons for your answer to the preceding question?

47. Do you believe that one bullet caused all the injuries you sustained in the shooting?

50. Did the bullet pass through the dorsal (backside) of your waist, or the volar (front or palm side) of your waist?

51. What is your reason for your answer to the question numbered 50?

52. As nearly as you can recollect, please indicate the exact position you were in at the time you were struck by the bullet in your back.

C. Post-Assassination Events

53. If you were conscious and have any current recollection, describe the pain or other sensation you experienced immediately after the shooting.

54. If you were conscious and have any recollections, describe the trip from the assassination scene to Parkland Hospital.

55. If you were conscious and have any recollection, describe the action taken by the hospital attendants in removing you from the President's car and in taking you into the emergency room.

56. Do you know whether there was any bullet or bullet fragment which remained in your body or on your clothing as you were placed on the emergency stretcher at Parkland Hospital?

57. Describe, in a general way, all post-shooting events which you were rendered unconscious by the bullet or the anesthesia used in the operation.

58. Describe, in a general way, the operations which were performed on you at Parkland Hospital.

59. Describe, in a general way, your treatment and convalescence at Parkland Hospital following the operation.

60. If you were to, please comment on the state of your recovery at the present time.

D. General Information

61. Were there any events or occurrences which took place in Texas, during that trip or after that trip which shed light on the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy?

62. Were there any conversations involving you or which you had either before the trip to Texas, during that trip or after that trip which shed light on the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy?

[illegible] In the light of the function of this Committee to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy and its historical significance, are there any other facts which you consider relevant or helpful to our inquiry?